


USING PEER
REVIEW TO
ENHANCE YOUR
STUDIO
WRITING AND
SCHOOL WORK



SUBMIT YOUR
WRITING
FOR PUBLICATION
IN THE NEXT
EDITION OF OUR
NEWSLETTER!



NOTE CHANGE!
OUR NEXT MEETING
IS FEBRUARY 28TH:
11AM-1PM
1-2PM OPTIONAL

○ Issue 3

○ Volume 1

○ 2009

JANUARY NEWSLETTER

WNY Young Writers' *studio*

Pointed Feedback Helps Writers Grow

How often do we approach teachers, parents, or friends to ask for their feedback on our work? Requesting a peer review is a common part of our Studio sessions, but have you thought about how this process can help you become a better learner in other ways?

As a mom, I'm often asked to "look over" or "check" my daughters' work. While I'm always happy to help, I've learned to ask Laura and Nina what it is they would like me to look for as I review what they've created. It's important for you to do this as well. When you are able to state what your purpose was as a writer or a creator, it helps the person who is coaching you to serve you better. Thinking about this enables you to redefine what is most essential about your work as well.

The next time you have a paper, project, or other assignment due for school, consider sharing the peer review process we've learned at Studio with those who are helping you out. Using this process (or others like it) helps everyone involved learn more and grow as writers and reviewers!



SAVE THE DATE!

Our last session of the year is quickly approaching, and we can't wait to celebrate all that we've accomplished as writers and community members this year! Family, friends, students of the teachers involved in Studio and the public will be welcome to attend our June 6th coffee-house session, which will be held off-campus. Please save the date and look forward to receiving more information in the coming months.

SUBMIT YOUR WORK

If you would like to see your work included in the next issue of the WNY Young Writers' Studio newsletter, please submit your piece via email to stockmanangela@gmail.com. I will print all forms of writing, but space is limited and work must be polished!

The deadline for inclusion in the March newsletter is February 28th, so get writing!

I'm looking forward to publishing your work right here in our community newsletter.

At our last session, Jenna shared this piece, written in response to her curiosities about Tennyson's *The Lady of Shalott*. Please read, enjoy, and head to the blog to share your comments! If you are unfamiliar with the poem, Jenna provides a link to it below.

After I read the poem *The Lady of Shalott* by Tennyson, I couldn't help but wonder what was going on inside the main character, Lady Elaine of Astolat's, head. She was the lost love of Sir Lancelot, best friend of the courageous King Arthur. There were so many questions I pondered on after reading the poem. Why was she imprisoned? Why did she let herself be locked away? How did she feel when she fell in love with Lancelot? Through my story, I hoped to answer the questions ringing in my mind.

...Tristan, the brave knight, who had fought alongside Arthur in the battle against the Saxons, my beloved husband, had been trampled to death by his once most loyal horse.

"Now, the only regulations are that you must weave the scenes you see through the mirror into a tapestry of life. And you must never, ever, let your eyes see the outside world again except through the mirror."

"What would happen if I did?" I inquired. She didn't reply; she just smiled.

I have been in this room, locked in this tower, for almost two years. My fingers won't stop making the tapestry. In, out, in, out. No food, no water, no rest for two long years, with swelteringly hot days and freezing, dark, and scarily eeire nights.

Then, I saw **him** ride through the mirror.

His helmet flattened his coal-black curls to the side of his cheekbones. His shield was distinctly visible through the mirror-an **Argent three bendlets Gules**, red and white alternating stripes. He was definitely a knight of Camelot, a knight of the Round Table. I remembered Tristan mentioning the knight who bore that crest- Sir Lancelot.

A bar from the loom I was weaving the tapestry on broke off, and flew through the air. I ducked, and the bar crashed into the mirror.... "The curse," I choked, "has come upon me!"

There was a song I had sung to myself while I was weaving. "Oh death, where is thy sting? Oh grave, where is thy vic'try? And which is better: to love one unrequitedly, or to die, and let the soul run free..."

I let my body relax, and soon, Elaine od Astolat, the Lilly Maid of Astolat, the once-reigning Lady of Shalott, was no more.

Check Out Our Blog at <http://wnysummerstudio.wordpress.com>

Some of the work created by Studio members is featured in this space, including this piece by Jenna. We invite you to visit this space and encourage our writers by providing comments and helpful feedback. A schedule of events is also provided there as well as a link to our wiki, which houses many of the resources that we rely on. Feel free to share with teachers and young writers you may know!



Angela Stockman, Director
WNY Young Writers' Summer Studio
716-873-4739
stockmanangela@gmail.com